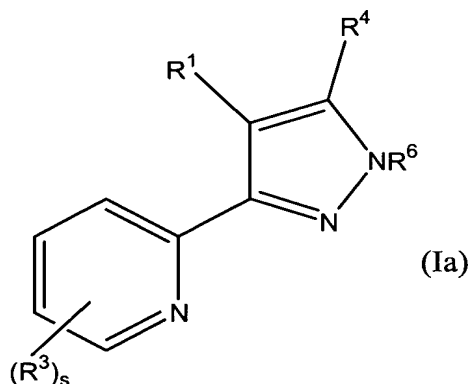
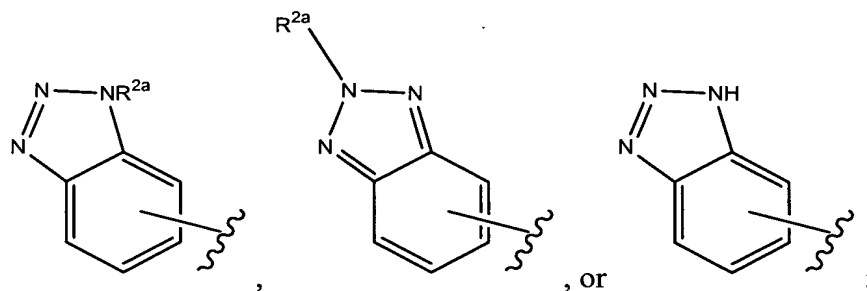


Amendments to the Claims

1. (CANCELED)
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A compound of formula (Ia):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug, tautomer, hydrate or solvate thereof,
wherein R¹ is



wherein R^{2a} is independently selected from the group consisting of: (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl, (C₅-C₁₀)aryl, (C₁-C₆)alkylaryl, amino, carbonyl, carboxyl, (C₂-C₆)acid, (C₁-C₆)ester, (C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl, (C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, nitro, halo, hydroxyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy(C₁-C₆)ester, and where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, amino, acid, ester, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, and alkoxy of R^{2a} is optionally substituted by at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, perhalo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, phenyl, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl, (C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl, (C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic, formyl, NC-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, ((C₁-C₆)alkyl)₂-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-(((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N)-(C=O)-, O₂N-, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkylamino, ((C₁-C₆)alkyl)₂-amino, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-[((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-,

phenyl-(C=O)-[(((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-, H₂N-(C=O)-NH-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, (((C₁-C₆)alkyl)₂N-(C=O)-NH-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-[((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-, (((C₁-C₆)alkyl)₂N-(C=O)-[((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, (phenyl)₂N-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-[(((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-, (phenyl-)₂N-(C=O)-[((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-O-(C=O)-[((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-[(alkyl)-N]-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-SO₂NH-, phenyl-SO₂NH-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-SO₂-, phenyl-SO₂-, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, perhalo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, (C₁-C₆)ester-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, H₂N-(C=O)-O-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, (((C₁-C₆)alkyl)₂N-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, and (phenyl)₂N-(C=O)-O-;

each R³ is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, perhalo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, phenyl, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic~~, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, perhalo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, phenoxy, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-O-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-O-~~, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-O-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-S-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-SO₂-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-NH-SO₂-, O₂N-, NC-, amino, Ph(CH₂)₁₋₆HN-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl HN-, (C₁-C₆)alkylamino, [(C₁-C₆)alkyl]₂-amino, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-SO₂-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO₂S-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-[(((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C=O)-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-(C=O)-~~, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H₂N(C=O)-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, [(C₁-C₆)alkyl]₂-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[(((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-~~, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, ~~heteroaryl~~, ~~heterocyclic~~, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R³ is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo, H₂N-, Ph(CH₂)₁₋₆HN-, and (C₁-C₆)alkylHN-;

s is an integer from one to five;

R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, perhalo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, phenyl, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic~~, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, perhalo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, phenoxy, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-O-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-O-~~, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-O-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-S-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-SO₂-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-NH-SO₂-, O₂N-, NC-, amino, Ph(CH₂)₁₋₆NH-, alkylNH-, (C₁-C₆)alkylamino, [(C₁-C₆)alkyl]₂-amino, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-SO₂-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoSO₂-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C=O)-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-(C=O)-~~, cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H₂N(C=O)-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, ((C₁-C₆)alkyl)₂-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-~~, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-O-,

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, ~~heteroaryl~~, ~~heterocyclic~~, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, and amino of R⁴ is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo, H₂N-, Ph(CH₂)₁₋₆-NH-, and (C₁-C₆)alkylNH-; and

R⁶ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, phenyl, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic~~, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(SO₂)-, phenyl-(SO₂)-, H₂N-(SO₂)-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-NH-(SO₂)-, ((C₁-C₆)alkyl)₂N-(SO₂)-, phenyl-NH-(SO₂)-, (phenyl)₂N-(SO₂)-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C=O)-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-(C=O)-~~, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-O-(C=O)-~~, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-O-(C=O)-, H₂N-(C=O)-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-~~, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, ((C₁-C₆)alkyl)₂N-(C=O)-, (phenyl)₂N-(C=O)-, phenyl-(((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-(((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-~~, and (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-(((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-; where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, ~~heteroaryl~~, ~~heterocyclic~~, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R⁶ is

optionally substituted with at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, perhalo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl~~, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-SO₂-, formyl, NC-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-(C=O)-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C=O)-~~, HO-(C=O)-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-O-(C=O)-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-O-(C=O)-~~, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-~~, ((C₁-C₆)alkyl)₂-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-(((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N)-(C=O)-, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, perhalo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-O-, phenoxy, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-O-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-O-~~, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-(C=O)-O-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C=O)-O-~~, O₂N-, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkylamino, ((C₁-C₆)alkyl)₂-amino, formamidyl, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-(C=O)-NH-~~, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C=O)-NH-~~, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C=O)-[(((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-[(((C₁-C₆)alkyl)-N]-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-SO₂NH-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-SO₂NH-, phenyl-SO₂NH-, ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heterocyclic-SO₂NH-~~ and ~~(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl-SO₂NH-~~; wherein the phenyl or ~~heteroaryl~~ moiety of a R⁶ substituent is optionally further substituted with at least one radical independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, perfluoro(C₁-C₆)alkyl and perfluoro(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, ~~with the proviso that R¹ contains at least one heteroatom.~~

3. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)
4. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)
5. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)
6. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)
7. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)
8. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

9. (CANCELED)
10. (CANCELED)
11. (CANCELED)
12. (CANCELED)
13. (CANCELED)
14. (CANCELED)
15. (CANCELED)
16. (NEW) A compound selected from the group consisting of 1-Methyl-6-[3-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole, 1-Methyl-6-[1-methyl-3-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole and 2-Methyl-5-[3-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
17. (NEW) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound chosen from the group consisting of 1-Methyl-6-[3-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole, 1-Methyl-6-[1-methyl-3-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole and 2-Methyl-5-[3-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.